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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

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DECL: OADR

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AUG 15 1994

RELEASED IN PART
B6, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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TO: The Secretary
THROUGH: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: AF - George E. Moose
SUBJECT: Telephone Call to French FM Juppe
Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

PURPOSE: Urge the French to work with the new Rwandan Government to extend the French deployment in Rwanda to assure an orderly transition to UNAMIR control in the safe zone.

DATE: Tuesday, August 16, morning

BACKGROUND:

- o Refugees have begun to leave the French safe zone in southwest Rwanda in anticipation of the French withdrawal, scheduled for August 22. The outflow into Bukavu in Zaire risks equalling or exceeding the outflow to Goma last month and could result in another major humanitarian disaster.
- o The French are to be replaced by UNAMIR forces, and Ghanaian troops have already deployed in the safe zone. Ethiopian troops are arriving in Rwanda this week, but more troops may be needed and the local population does not yet have full confidence in UNAMIR.
- o Anthony Lake called his counterpart over the weekend to encourage the French to extend their deployment. The French said they might be willing to stay on if the Rwandan government requests this and the UN extends the mandate of Operation Turquoise (a move we support).
- o Ambassador Rawson raised this issue with Rwandan President Bizimungu and Vice President Kagame on August 14. In order to avoid a humanitarian crisis, both officials agreed to be flexible and to cooperate with the French.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 14 AUG 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 04 NOV 2011 201005065

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B1

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- o We now understand that UN SRSG Shaharyar Khan obtained Vice President Kagame's agreement to allow the French to stay for a short additional period, and the UN is informing the French PermRep in New York of this. Direct talks between the French and the Rwandan government could clear up any ambiguity in the Rwandan government's position on the length of stay.
 - o Ambassador Rawson believes the French need to send representative(s) to Kigali to address the Rwandan government's concerns, establish France's good intentions, and discuss the need for an orderly transition from French to UNAMIR presence in the safe zone. We understand the French are establishing a small diplomatic presence (not an Embassy) in Kigali this week.

TOPICS OFDISCUSSION:

1. We need to do everything possible to stem the outflow of refugees from the safe zone to avoid another humanitarian disaster.
2. In order to reassure Rwandans in the zone, we believe French troops should stay on until an orderly transition to UNAMIR can take place.
3. The Rwandan government is willing to be flexible and cooperate with the French to avoid the humanitarian disaster, but they are not persuaded the French presence is helpful.
4. The French need to discuss the concerns of the Rwandan government and the need to arrange an orderly transition to UNAMIR, including the possible need to extend the French presence.

RECOMMENDATION

That you call Foreign Minister Juppe to urge the French to work with the new Rwandan Government to extend the French deployment in Rwanda so as to assure an orderly transition to UNAMIR control in the safe zone.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Talking Points

AUG 17 1994

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